

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A delivery device for delivering an implant to an anatomical site in a body of a patient, the device comprising,
a handle,
a shaft having proximal and distal ends and attached to the handle at the proximal end, the distal end having a curved section and the proximal end having a substantially straight section,
a pusher tube slideably fitted over the shaft and extending from the handle distally along the substantially straight section of the proximal end of the shaft, and
a pushing mechanism operatively interconnected with the handle for actuating the pusher tube distally along the substantially straight section of the proximal end of the shaft to push an implant into the anatomical site;
wherein the pusher tube is adapted to form an interface with the implant along the substantially straight section of the proximal end of the shaft.

2. (Original) The delivery device of claim 1, wherein the pusher tube and the pushing mechanism are integrated into a single assembly,

3. (Original) The delivery device of claim 1, wherein the handle includes a first axially extending recess and the pushing mechanism includes a first axially extending tongue for slideably interfitting with the first axially extending recess.

4. (Currently amended) The delivery device of claim 3, wherein the handle includes a first stop located at a ~~proximal~~ distal end of the first axially extending recess and the first axially extending tongue includes a projection located at a ~~distal~~ proximal end for engaging with the first stop to limit axial motion in a distal direction of the first tongue relative to the handle.

5. (Original) The delivery device of claim 4, wherein the handle includes a second axially extending recess substantially parallel to the first axially extending recess, and the pushing mechanism includes a second axially extending tongue for slideably interfitting with the second

axially extending recess.

6. (Currently amended) The delivery device of claim 5, wherein the handle includes a second stop located ~~a proximal~~ at a distal end of the second axially extending recess and the second axially extending tongue includes a projection located at a ~~distal~~ proximal end for engaging with the second stop to limit ~~axially~~ axial motion in a distal direction of the second tongue relative to the handle.

7. (Currently amended) The delivery device of claim 3, wherein the first axially extending tongue includes a first projection located at a ~~distal~~ proximal end for engaging with a proximal end of the first axially extending recess to limit axial motion in a proximal direction of the first tongue relative to the handle.

8. (Previously presented) The delivery device of claim 1, wherein the pushing mechanism slideably interfits over the shaft and includes a pusher button for actuating the pushing mechanism.

9. (Previously presented) The delivery device of claim 1, wherein the pusher button includes a reduced diameter portion for accommodating a finger of a medical operator.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering an implant to an anatomical site in a body of a patient, the device comprising,

an implant for being delivered to an anatomical site in the body of a patient, and
a delivery device including,

a handle,

a shaft having proximal and distal ends and attached to the handle at the proximal end, wherein the distal end has a curved section and the proximal end has a substantially straight section,

a pusher tube slideably fitted over the shaft and extending from the handle distally along the substantially straight section of the proximal end of the shaft, and

a pushing mechanism operatively interconnected with the handle for actuating the pusher tube distally along the substantially straight section of the proximal end of the shaft to push the implant into the anatomical site,

wherein the pusher tube is adapted to form an interface with the implant along the substantially straight section of the proximal end of the shaft.

11. (Previously presented) The delivery system of claim 10, wherein the pusher tube and the pushing mechanism are integrated into a single assembly,

12. (Previously presented) The delivery system of claim 10, wherein the handle includes a first axially extending recess and the pushing mechanism includes a first axially extending tongue for slideably interfitting with the first axially extending recess.

13. (Currently amended) The delivery system of claim 12, wherein the handle includes a first stop located at a ~~proximal~~ distal end of the first axially extending recess and the first axially extending tongue includes a projection located at a ~~distal~~ proximal end for engaging with the first stop to limit axial motion in a distal direction of the first tongue relative to the handle.

14. (Previously presented) The delivery system of claim 13, wherein the handle includes a second axially extending recess substantially parallel to the first axially extending recess, and the pushing mechanism includes a second axially extending tongue for slideably interfitting with the second axially extending recess.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The delivery system of claim 12, wherein the first axially extending tongue includes a first projection located at a ~~distal~~ proximal end for engaging with a proximal end of the first axially extending recess to limit axial motion in a proximal direction of the first tongue relative to the handle.

17. (Original) The delivery system of claim 10, wherein the pushing mechanism slideably interfits over the shaft and includes a pusher button for actuating the pushing mechanism.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The delivery system of claim 10, wherein the implant comprises a sling assembly having first and second ends.

20. (Previously Presented) The delivery system of claim 19, wherein the sling assembly includes a first guide tube attached to the first end and a second guide tube attached to the second end, and each of the first and second guide tubes are sized for slideably interfitting over a distal end of the shaft.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The delivery system of claim 20, wherein the first and second guide tubes are sized for intermitting, alternately, and one at a time, over the shaft and abutting a distal end of the pusher tube.

23. (Original) The delivery system of claim 20, wherein the first guide tube has proximal and distal ends and attaches at the proximal end to the first end of the sling assembly and slideably interfits over the shaft, proximal end first.

24. (Original) The delivery system of claim 20, wherein the first guide tube has proximal and distal ends, attaches at the proximal end to the first end of the sling assembly and slideably interfits over the shaft, distal end first.

25. (Currently amended) A method of delivering an implant to an anatomical site in a body of a patient, the method comprising,

slideably interfitting a first guide tube attached to a first end of an implant, over a distal end and along at least a portion of a length of a shaft, wherein the distal end of the shaft has a curved section and a proximal end of the shaft has a substantially straight section, and wherein a pusher tube is slideably interfitted over the substantially straight section of the shaft such that the pusher tube forms an interface with the guide tube along the substantially straight section of the proximal end of the shaft,

positioning at least the distal end of the shaft in a body of a patient,

sliding the first guide tube off the shaft to deliver a first portion of the implant into the body of the patient,

slideably interfitting a second guide tube attached to a second end of the implant over the distal end and along at least a portion of the length of the shaft,

positioning at least the distal end of the shaft in the body of the patient, and

sliding the second guide tube off the shaft to deliver a second portion of the implant into the body of the patient.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the implant includes a sling for treating urinary incontinence.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 comprising using ~~a pushing mechanism~~ the pusher tube to slide the first and second guide tubes off the shaft.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the first and second guide tubes have proximal and distal ends, attach at their respective proximal ends to the implant, and the method comprises sliding the first and second guide tubes, distal end first, over the distal end of the shaft.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the first and second guide tubes

have proximal and distal ends, attach at their respective proximal ends to the implant, and the method comprises sliding the first and second guide tubes, proximal end first, over the distal end of the shaft.

30. (Original) The method of claim 25, comprising delivering the implant to a midurethral position in the body of the patient.

31. (Original) The method of claim 25, comprising positioning the distal end of the shaft in the body of the patient intravaginally.

32. (Currently amended) A method of delivering an implant to an anatomical site in a body of a patient, the method comprising,

slideably interfitting a first guide tube attached to a first end of an implant, over a distal end and along at least a portion of a length of a first shaft, wherein the distal end of the first shaft has a curved section and a proximal end of the first shaft has a substantially straight section, and wherein a first pusher tube is slideably interfitted over the substantially straight section of the first shaft such that the first pusher tube forms an interface with the guide tube along the substantially straight section of the proximal end of the first shaft,

positioning at least the distal end of the first shaft in a body of a patient,

sliding the first guide tube off the first shaft to deliver a first portion of the implant into the body of the patient,

slideably interfitting a second guide tube attached to a second end of the implant over a distal end and along at least a portion of a length of a second shaft,

positioning at least the distal end of the second shaft in the body of the patient, and

sliding the second guide tube off the second shaft to deliver a second portion of the implant into the body of the patient.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the positioning steps for the first and second shafts are performed before the sliding steps for the first and second steps.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (New) The delivery device of claim 1, wherein the pusher tube remains proximal to the curved section.

37. (New) The delivery device of claim 1, wherein the pusher tube has a length and the substantially straight section has a length, and the pusher tube length is less than the substantially straight section length.

38. (New) The delivery device of claim 1, wherein the pusher tube forms a non-overlapping connection interface with the implant.

39. (New) The delivery system of claim 10, wherein the pusher tube remains proximal to the curved section.

40. (New) The delivery system of claim 10, wherein the pusher tube has a length and the substantially straight section has a length, and the pusher tube length is less than the substantially straight section length.